Revival of Utkal Alumina International Ltd., Kashipur

2226. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bauxite Mining and Alumina plant project of Utkal Alumina International Ltd., Kashipur in Orissa is proposed to be revived;

(b) if so, the name of the Company who will manage and run the Plant; and

(c) whether there is local opposition to its revival, if so, the nature of their apprehensions and action taken to dispel them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The State Government of Orissa has informed that the Bauxite Mining and Alumina plant project of M/s. Utkal Alumina International Ltd. (UAIL), Kashipur in Orissa is an ongoing project. Indian Aluminium Company Ltd. (INDAL) who is one of the promoters of UAIL will manage and run the plant after the formalities of acquiring 55% majority stake in UAIL are completed.

(c) There was local opposition to the project and UAIL has decided to put a renewed thrust on effective communication to convince the local villagers about their plans to facilitate sustainable development and to achieve overall socio-economic development in the region by organising social awareness programmes.

Amendments to Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974

2227. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974 to impose cess on Coal to improve safety in mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has estimated expenditure required to improve safety in mines;